GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:568
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
FRUITS UNDER OGL H
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission of import of apples and other fruits under Open General Licence Scheme is adversely affecting fruit-growers in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether any survey or study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the adverse impact thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives being provided to fruit-growers by the Government for promoting export of their apples and other fruits?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b) Import restrictions on apple and other fruits have been removed in accordance with the economic liberalization policy and in keeping with our international commitment. However, subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, the customs duty on apple imports was raised from 35% to the maximum bound rate of 50% during 2000-2001. In addition, import of all primary agricultural products, including apple and other fruits, are subject to an import permit.

(c) Government has notified setting up of AEZs on various fruits like apples in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, pineapples in West Bengal and Tripura, Mangoes in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh among others. Central and State Governments are encouraging exports by providing infrastructural support such as setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities, concessional credit etc. Government has also been encouraging export of fruits, including apples by arranging buyer seller meets, participation in international fairs and exhibitions by assistance schemes or concessional credit for promoting exports.